

**35A.8 Executive director — term — duties — veterans' bonuses.**

1. The governor shall appoint an executive director, subject to confirmation by the senate, who shall serve at the pleasure of the governor. The executive director is responsible for administering the duties of the department and the commission other than those related to the Iowa veterans home.

2. The executive director shall be a resident of the state of Iowa and an honorably discharged veteran who served in the armed forces of the United States during a conflict or war. As used in this section, the dates of service in a conflict or war shall coincide with the dates of service established by the Congress of the United States.

3. Except for the employment duties and responsibilities assigned to the commandant for the Iowa veterans home, the executive director shall employ such personnel as are necessary for the performance of the duties and responsibilities assigned to the department and the commission. All employees shall be selected on a basis of fitness for the work to be performed with due regard to training and experience and shall be subject to the provisions of chapter 8A, subchapter IV.

4. a. The executive director shall provide for the administration of the bonus authorized in this subsection. The department shall adopt rules, pursuant to chapter 17A, as necessary to administer this subsection including, but not limited to, application procedures, investigation, approval or disapproval, and payment of claims.

b. (1) Each person who served on active duty in the active, oceangoing merchant marine service of the United States, at any time between December 7, 1941, and December 31, 1946, both dates inclusive, and who served for a period of not less than one hundred twenty days on or before December 31, 1946, and who at the time of entering into the merchant marine service was a legal resident of the state of Iowa, and who had maintained the person's residence in this state for a period of at least six months immediately before entering the merchant marine service, and was honorably discharged or separated from the merchant marine service, is entitled to receive from moneys appropriated for that purpose the sum of twelve dollars and fifty cents for each month that the person was on active duty in the merchant marine service, all before December 31, 1946, not to exceed a total sum of five hundred dollars. Compensation for a fraction of a month shall not be considered unless the fraction is sixteen days or more, in which case the fraction shall be computed as a full month.

(2) A person is not entitled to compensation pursuant to this subsection if the person received a bonus or compensation similar to that provided in this subsection from another state.

(3) A person is not entitled to compensation pursuant to this subsection if the person was on active duty in the merchant marine service after December 7, 1941, and the person refused on conscientious, political, religious, or other grounds, to be subject to military discipline.

(4) The surviving unremarried widow or widower, child or children, mother, father, or person standing in loco parentis, in the order named and none other, of any deceased person, shall be paid the compensation that the deceased person would be entitled to pursuant to this subsection, if living, but if any person has died or shall die, or is disabled, from service-connected causes incurred during the period and in the area from which the person is entitled to receive compensation pursuant to this subsection, the person or the first survivor as designated by this subsection, and in the order named, shall be paid five hundred dollars, regardless of the length of service.

c. A person who knowingly makes a false statement relating to a material fact in supporting an application under this subsection is guilty of a serious misdemeanor. A person convicted pursuant to this subsection shall forfeit all benefits to which the person may have been entitled under this subsection.

d. All payments and allowances made under this subsection shall be exempt from taxation and from levy and sale on execution.

e. The bonus compensation authorized under this subsection shall be paid from moneys appropriated for that purpose.

f. A merchant marine bonus fund is created in the state treasury. The merchant marine bonus fund shall consist of all moneys appropriated to the fund to pay the bonus compensation authorized in this subsection. Notwithstanding section 12C.7, interest or

earnings on investments or time deposits of the moneys in the merchant marine bonus fund shall be credited to the merchant marine bonus fund. Section 8.33 does not apply to moneys appropriated to the merchant marine bonus fund.

5. a. The executive director shall provide for the administration of the bonus authorized in this subsection. The department shall adopt rules, pursuant to chapter 17A, as necessary to administer this subsection including but not limited to application procedures, investigation, approval or disapproval, and payment of claims.

b. (1) A person who served on active duty for not less than one hundred twenty days in the armed forces of the United States, and who served on active duty at any time between July 1, 1973, and May 31, 1975, both dates inclusive, and who at the time of entering into active duty service was a legal resident of the state of Iowa, and who had maintained the person's residence in this state for a period of at least six months immediately before entering into active duty service, and was honorably discharged or separated from active duty service, or is still in active service in an honorable status, or has been retired, or has been furloughed to a reserve, or has been placed on inactive status is entitled to receive from moneys appropriated for that purpose the sum of seventeen dollars and fifty cents for each month that the person was on active duty service in the Vietnam service area, within the dates specified in this subparagraph, if the veteran earned either a Vietnam service medal or an armed forces expeditionary medal-Vietnam or can otherwise establish service in the Vietnam service area during that period. Compensation under this subparagraph shall not exceed a total sum of five hundred dollars. Compensation for a fraction of a month shall not be considered unless the fraction is sixteen days or more, in which case the fraction shall be computed as a full month.

(2) A person otherwise qualified under this paragraph "b" except that the person did not earn either a Vietnam service medal or an armed forces expeditionary medal-Vietnam, and did not serve in the Vietnam service area during the period between July 1, 1973, and May 31, 1975, both dates inclusive, is entitled to receive from moneys appropriated for that purpose the sum of twelve dollars and fifty cents for each month that the person was on active duty service, within the dates specified in subparagraph (1). Compensation under this subparagraph shall not exceed a total sum of three hundred dollars. Compensation for a fraction of a month shall not be considered unless the fraction is sixteen days or more, in which case the fraction shall be computed as a full month.

(3) A person is not entitled to compensation pursuant to this subsection if the person received a bonus or compensation similar to that provided in this subsection from another state.

(4) A person is not entitled to compensation pursuant to this subsection if the person was on active duty service after July 1, 1973, and the person refused on conscientious, political, religious, or other grounds, to be subject to military discipline.

(5) The surviving unremarried widow or widower, child or children, mother, father, or person standing in loco parentis, in the order named and none other, of any deceased person shall be paid the compensation that the deceased person would be entitled to pursuant to this subsection, if living. However, if any person has died or shall die, or is disabled, from service-connected causes incurred during the period and in the area from which the person is entitled to receive compensation pursuant to this subsection, the person or the first survivor as designated by this subparagraph, and in the order named, shall be paid five hundred dollars or three hundred dollars, whichever maximum amount would have applied pursuant to subparagraph (1) or (2), regardless of the length of service.

(6) The maximum compensation a person may receive pursuant to this subsection shall be reduced by the amount of any Vietnam veterans bonus received from the state by that person for service prior to July 1, 1973.\*

c. A person who knowingly makes a false statement relating to a material fact in supporting an application under this subsection is guilty of a serious misdemeanor. A person convicted pursuant to this subsection shall forfeit all benefits to which the person may have been entitled under this subsection.

d. All payments and allowances made under this subsection shall be exempt from taxation, levy, and sale on execution.

e. The bonus compensation authorized under this subsection shall be paid from moneys appropriated for that purpose.

f. A Vietnam Conflict veterans bonus fund is created in the state treasury. The Vietnam Conflict veterans bonus fund shall consist of all moneys appropriated to the fund to pay the bonus compensation authorized in this subsection. Notwithstanding section 12C.7, interest or earnings on investments or time deposits of the moneys in the Vietnam Conflict veterans bonus fund shall be credited to the bonus fund. Section 8.33 does not apply to moneys appropriated to the Vietnam Conflict veterans bonus fund.

[C79, 81, §35A.8]

86 Acts, ch 1245, §1710; 92 Acts, ch 1140, §10; 92 Acts, ch 1247, §28; 99 Acts, ch 180, §5; 2000 Acts, ch 1218, §1; 2003 Acts, ch 145, §148; 2005 Acts, ch 115, §14, 40; 2007 Acts, ch 176, §1, 3; 2007 Acts, ch 202, §6; 2008 Acts, ch 1031, §21; 2008 Acts, ch 1191, §35, 36, 106

[P] Confirmation, see §2.32

[P] \*See 73 Acts, ch 64; codified at former chapter 35C in Code 1975